

BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1959.





STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Assistant County Medical Officer.	} 5/11th of time.
School Medical Officer.	
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.)	} 6/11th of time.
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.	
Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.	
Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.	

contributing roughly:-

Blandford Rural District.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week.
Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.
Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	$\frac{1}{3}$ day per week.
Borough of Blandford Forum.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR with combined duties as Surveyor:-

G.S.C. Udall, M.R.S.H.	F.A.P.H.I.	A.F.S.(Eng.)
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ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

M. Stockley. Cert. R.S.H.	M.A.P.H.I.
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BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:-

Councillor Miss A.G. Biddlecombe J.P

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:-

Councillor A.B.C. Davis

COUNCILLORS:-

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E.K. Hooper

Mrs. M.P. Andrews

C.B.C. Jones

E.G. Bailey

Colonel J.L. Jones. C.B.E.

Capt. G.M. Bateman

D.W. Keen

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A.E. Lane

K.R. Browning

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Lt. Col. A.L. Cameron

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R.H. Goodman

Dr. R.M. Taylor

Lt. Col. J.G.M.B. Gough

L. Tory

B.A.S. Hicks

F.W. Waterman

Major G.T. Wright

Public Health Department,
Nordon,
Salisbury Road,
Blandford Forum.
August, 1960

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1959.

The report is prepared in accordance with the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959, and Ministry of Health Circulars 1/60, 19/56 and 22/58.

I would like to express my appreciation of the willing and efficient co-operation of your chief public health inspector, Mr. G. Udall, and of your public health inspector, Mr. M. Stockley, upon whom I rely to a large extent.

The report incorporates details supplied by your chief public health inspector in his annual report to me in accordance with the above regulations.

G.B. Hopkins.

AUGUST, 1960

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres.....	61, 717
Population as estimated by Registrar General.....	12, 750
Rateable value at 1st April, 1959.....	£99, 721
Estimated number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1959..	2, 943
Penny rate product as at 1st April, 1959.....	£385

As supplied by the Registrar General

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>				<u>Blandford</u>	<u>England &</u>	167
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative</u>
						<u>County</u>

Legitimate.....	161	83	78			
Illegitimate.....	6	3	3	14.5	16.5	14.6

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births.....	3.7
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STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate.....	2	1	1
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.....	6
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DEATHS

Total registered.....	79	38	41	7.7	11.6	12.4
Deaths from Puerperal Causes.....						0

INFANT MORTALITY

Legitimate.....	1	0	1
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages).....	16
Measles " "	0
Whooping cough!.....	0
Diphtheria....!".....	0

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

These factors applied to the crude rates, namely births and deaths per 1,000 population, yield standardised rates which make comparisons with other districts possible, where total numbers involved justify such comparisons. They do not compensate for the fact that a significant proportion of the Rural District population consists of medically selected personnel of the Armed Forces.

STATISTICAL TABLES..... 1959.

Causes of Death.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	2	-	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	-	1	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms....	2	10	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.....	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	8	9	17
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	9	7	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease.....	5	6	11
21. Other circulatory disease... ..	1	1	2
22. Influenza.....	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.....	1	-	1
24. Bronchitis.....	1	-	1
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system...	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases.....	3	4	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	4	-	4
34. All other accidents.....	-	-	-
35. Suicide.....	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
TOTALS.	38	41	79

SECTION ANATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.....	61, 717
Population.....	12, 750

DEATHS

79 deaths were assigned, a sharp drop from the previous year.

BIRTHS

167 were assigned.

MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of infants dying under one year was one, aged four weeks.

SECTION BPUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory Service was created to enable Medical Officers' of Health throughout the country to have free access to a laboratory in connection with epidemiological investigations and routine bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. The local laboratory is situated at Dorchester and provides an excellent scientific service.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castlemans House, Blandford.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an ante-natal clinic and an Infant Welfare Centre once a fortnight in Blandford.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help Scheme provides a service in Blandford and surrounding district.

SECTION C
Prevalance of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

Measles.....	94
Whooping Cough.....	95
Pneumonia.....	23
Scarlet fever.....	4
Puerperal Pyrexia...	2
Tuberculosis.....	2
Dysentery.....	4
Food poisoning.....	1
Erysipelas.....	1
	<u>226</u>

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year, the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Males.....	22	Males.....	4
Females.....	14	Females.....	1

The gratifyingly low figures for non-pulmonary tuberculosis are witness to the vastly improved methods of handling milk in very recent years, notably by pasteurisation. The advent of tuberculin tested dairy herds should largely eliminate this form of tuberculosis. In this respect we have come a very long way from the days when 20,000 persons per year in this island contracted non-pulmonary tuberculosis, mostly of bones, joints and glands, almost entirely due to infected milk.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS - 1959

B.C.G.	<u>POLIOMYELITIS.</u>		<u>DIPHTHERIA.</u>		<u>WHOOPING COUGH.</u>		<u>TETANUS.</u>		<u>SMALLPOX.</u>	
	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.
P = Primary Course (2 or 3 injections). B = Single Booster injections.										
25	1397.	2023.	209	234	185	84	173	89	149	161

The actual numbers of injections under the "P" column is double or treble the figures given.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

<u>AGES.</u>	<u>Whooping Cough.</u>	<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Scarlet fever.</u>	<u>Tuberculosis.</u>	<u>Dysentery.</u>	<u>Pneumonia.</u>	<u>Food Psg.</u>	<u>Erysi- pelas</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia.</u>
Under 1	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	7	14	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
3.	6	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
4.	10	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
5-9	48	37	4	-	-	3	-	-	-
10-14	15	14	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
15-24	-	7	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
25 & Over.	3	2	-	2	3	12	-	1	2
TOTALS.	95	94	4	2	4	23	1	1	2

In August a joint meeting of representatives of the five authorities for whom I act was held.

A recommendation was made for a whole time assistant for County Council duties instead of the half-time assistant already appointed, with a view to freeing me for the six-elevenths proportion of time allocated to the four district councils. Attention was also directed to the allocation of this six-elevenths between the four district councils contributing to it, and it was agreed that this would be left to my discretion.

This arrangement is very favourable to your Council, which financially contributes towards less than half of the time actually devoted to it.

Holding office for five authorities means that duties not infrequently clash and it is essential to plan well ahead in order to place commitments on an orderly basis. For this reason ample notice of extraordinary meetings or reports would be much appreciated.

It was not possible to attend three public health meetings during the latter half of 1959 owing to public enquiries and a civil defence staff course. Together with the August recess this made an unusually long absence from committees. It will readily be appreciated that with time so heavily over-subscribed for your district it is not possible for me to attend meetings other than public health except on special occasions. This is admittedly unfortunate.

VERMINOUS PERSONS

No such persons were brought to my attention during the year and no recommendations under Section 85 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were made to the Council.

DISINFECTOR STATIONS

There are none within the district, but one is sited at Weymouth and another at Poole and amicable arrangements could doubtless be made for disinfection of blankets and mattresses.

FOOD POISONING

One case only was reported. The great majority of cases are not notified for a variety of reasons, including that the family doctor is often not called, and that people are naturally reluctant to give any publicity whatever to distressing symptoms even though they are seriously inconvenienced thereby.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - Nil

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

The ultimate authority for the enforcement of clean food handling is the housewife, and one learns on reliable authority that in America the housewife really is such an authority. Until the English housewife catches up, the responsibility falls wholly upon the Authorities chosen by Parliament to enforce the Regulations. Perhaps the English housewife prefers it this way.

Improvements, as distinct from compliance with the Regulations, were carried out at a number of food premises, and the food premises throughout the district are on the whole being maintained in a cleanly condition.

A successful Court action was taken against the proprietor of one food business in December. Efforts had been directed towards securing improvement in this and other bakeries since shortly after the Regulations came into force in January, 1956, and a preliminary report was made to the Health Committee by the Public Health Inspector in September, 1957. A specific report upon this bakery was made to the Health Committee by the Public Health Inspector on 22nd January, 1958, and Minute 1622, January 28th, 1958, required a Notice to be served giving the owner six months in which to complete the work listed in the Inspector's report.

A sub-committee subsequently visited and decided upon a list of requirements which fell short of those of the Regulations, but further time revealed that the owner was not willing to carry out even this modified list and a resolution was eventually passed in 1959 to initiate proceedings in the Magistrates Court.

No action was however taken upon this resolution and in view of the excessive demands that this case had already made on the public health staff further visits were for the time being abandoned.

The case was re-opened in September by which time further detailed inspection was legally necessary, and after a Special Meeting and another Council resolution in December, the case finally came to Court. By this time certain defects had been remedied, one a major one. The case was satisfactorily concluded though difficulty had been experienced in view of the potential clash between the Law and the modified version accepted by the Council.

I must express my regret for the tardy support given to the Public Health Department by the Council, in this case, especially in view of the fact that the district has been singularly unfortunate in experiencing a death from food poisoning, referred to in my Annual Report for 1957, of a nature for the prevention of which one of the Regulations which the Council would not accept is specifically designed.

MILK SUPPLIES

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is responsible for the registration of dairy farms and the supervision of milk production, except with regard to the Regulations on diseases communicable to man. The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, came into operation on the 8th March, 1959, amending previous legislation. In so far as these new Regulations affect the Medical Officer of Health (Part VII), certain changes from former legislation merit attention. Notifiable diseases now include food poisoning. Provision is made for the local authority to pay compensation to a person who sustains damage or loss through being debarred by the Medical Officer of Health from certain employment connected with milk because he is suffering or has been in contact with a person who is suffering, from a disease liable to cause infection of milk. Compensation will now be payable to a dairy farmer who has suffered loss or damage as a result of being served with an infected milk notice only when the notice has been wrongly served, or has not been withdrawn as soon as possible.

Persons engaged in the milking of cows or otherwise having access to milk in open containers must wear clean and washable head covering and overalls. Open cuts must be kept covered with a waterproof dressing and spitting and the use of tobacco is prohibited. Occupiers of dairies and dairy farms must provide first aid equipment.

Waterproof dressings should now feature in all first aid boxes in food and dairy premises. If they did in fact their sale would have been noticeably stimulated. There are about 250 dairy farms in Blandford Rural District and 150 food premises. The fact that sales have not noticeably altered in the district, strongly suggests that this regulation may be widely ignored, though it is reasonable, firmly based on logic, and its observation would cost a few pence only.

As before, the final onus of notifying the Medical Officer of Health of any notifiable disease remains with the occupier of premises.

THE MILK(SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (SPECIFIED AREAS) ORDER, 1959.

In April, 1959, the district became a designated area in which the following types only of milk could be sold:-

- Tuberculin Tested.
- Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised.
- Pasteurised.
- Sterilised.

THE ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, Etc.) REGULATIONS, 1959.

No manufacturing for sale is done in the district.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Most of the meat consumed in the district comes from the slaughterhouse in Blandford Borough where 100% inspection is the rule, largely at the expense of the Borough Council, who receive grants much less than the cost of inspection. During the absence on holiday of the Borough meat inspector, the Council agreed to loan an experienced meat inspector to the Borough so as to maintain 100% inspection. Difficulties subsequently emerged which it is hoped will not militate against a repetition of this arrangement, the Rural District being indebted to the Borough for much of the not inconsiderable cost of inspection of meat consumed in the Rural District.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

60 lbs of steak and kidney, cooked at a canteen, was condemned as unfit due to inadequate cooling.

160 visits to food premises were made during the year, an increase of 55 over the previous year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

This enactment is designed to enable a local authority to take steps to remove persons suffering from chronic disease, or old persons in need of care and attention, to suitable accommodation. Every effort is made to keep such persons, mostly aged, in their own homes, and the Home Help Service run by the County Council is invaluable in this respect. Primitive conditions in which some old people are still regrettably forced to live militate against keeping them in their homes when a certain degree of physical incapacity has developed. This problem is likely to grow with the ageing of the population, and its alleviation rests partly with the provision of suitable old persons' bungalows such as those commenced during the year in Shroton. Old people are often said to be quite determined not to move from the unsatisfactory dwellings to which they often gravitate but one wonders whether they would be so adamant if they realised what admirable alternatives could exist, such as those now completed in Shroton.

No action under Section 47 was necessary.

WATER SUPPLY

With two small areas as exceptions, the whole of the rural district can now enjoy a piped water supply. The two small areas are at Thornicombe and Spettisbury and it is hoped that the newly constituted Water Board will be able to provide a supply for them.

Results of Bacteriological Sampling:-

<u>Type of Owner.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Council, supplying public.....	27	1	28
Private estate, supplying public.....	11	16	27
Other Local Authorities supplying public....	10	-	10
Private Wells.....	9	13	22

Private supplies are seen frequently to be sources of concern. Service of statutory notices requiring a satisfactory supply may achieve the desired result, and the Council required this to be done at the end of the year. Progress will be set out in the 1960 report.

WATER RESULTSCHEMICAL ANALYSES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR 1959 - Certificate of Analysis.

Of a Sample of Water Marked Stourpaine Standpipe, Shaston Road, 10.15 a.m.
Received from The Sanitary Inspector, Blandford R.D.C. on the 16th July, 1959.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned samples with the following results:- as parts per million.

Ammonia, free.....	0.023
" Albuminoid.....	0.052
Nitrites.....	Nil
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	6.10
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 degs.F.....	0.155
" " " 4 hours " " " ".....	0.410
Chlorine.....	24.0
as Sodium Chloride.....	39.4
Hardness, temporary.....	227.5
" permanent.....	27.3
" Total.....	254.8
Total Solids.....	396.0
pH value.....	7.3

Metals:- Iron, copper, lead, zinc absent.

Appearance:- Colourless and clear.

Odour:- None.

Free Chlorine.

REMARKS:- This is a clear, bright water of fairly good organic purity. It is moderately hard in character and does not contain any metallic impurities. The results show that the water is free from pollution, and in my opinion, from a chemical point of view the water is satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes.

Arthur S. Carlos.
Public Analyst.

21st July, 1959.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Of a sample of Water marked Shroton Cottage, Bessells, Shroton - 10 a.m. 16.7.59
Received from the Public Health Inspector, Blandford R.D.C. on the 16.7.59.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned samples with the following results:- as parts per million.

Ammonia, Free.....	0.009
" Albuminoid.....	0.021
Nitrites.....	Nil
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	3.22
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 degs. F.....	0.20
" " " 4 hours " " " ".....	0.255
Chlorine.....	18.0
as Sodium Chloride.....	29.6
Hardness, temporary.....	197.5
" permanent.....	7.5
" Total.....	205.0
Total Solids.....	314.0
pH value.....	7.65

Metals:- Iron, copper, lead, Zinc absent.

Appearance:- Colourless and clear.

Odour:- None.

Free Chlorine.

Remarks:- This is a water of good organic purity. It is moderately hard in character and is clear and bright in appearance. The result gives no indication of pollution, and in my opinion, from a chemical point of view the water is very satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes. Signed. Arthur S.Carlos. 21/7/59

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Work on the installation of sewerage in the village of Pimperne was almost completed by the end of the year, bringing the number of villages now sewered to four. A large private housing site at Langton Long, Blandford, has been granted permission to drain into the Blandford Borough sewer, sewerage of the site having been completed before the end of the year.

In the villages already sewered, eight houses at Blandford St. Mary (including two for demolition) are not connected, five using septic tanks, three using bucket closets. A public water supply is situated close by two of these bucket closets. The sewer is readily available for connection to a modern sanitary block for the school when the County Council is able to proceed with such a scheme.

At Milborne St. Andrew, where the Public Enquiry into the proposed sewerage scheme was held in May, 1950, the situation was much the same as at the end of the previous year. Four council houses on a single septic tank have been connected to the sewer, and thirty four bucket closets remained in council houses and private dwellings. The Council will no doubt wish to do its best to remedy all the conditions put forward to the Ministry in 1950 as grounds for receiving loan sanction for this sewerage scheme.

At Milton Abbas the cafe remained unconnected though it is the one dwelling in the village of greatest importance in connection with the protection of the bore hole two miles down the valley, a subject which received so much attention at the Public Enquiry in May, 1950. The significance of this is that the population of the village is relatively static at about four to five hundred persons, but many times this number may visit a cafe during a year, and the chance occurrence of a disease carrier in the village is that much enhanced. The septic tank of the cafe is understood to give no trouble and therefore must drain away very freely. It is near a stream which passes within 100 yards of the water bore two miles downstream. In summer this stream is absorbed into the chalk formations into which the bore is sunk. Chemically treated bucket closet contents are buried in the grounds of the cafe.

It is understood that this problem is to be greatly minimised by abolition of the bucket closets and the building of a small sanitary block for visitors in a situation which will permit a connection to the sewer.

HOUSING UNFIT HOUSES.

There are many houses throughout the district which fall short of the by no means high standards laid down in the 1957 Housing Act, though slow improvement has taken place, mainly due to grant-aided schemes. Owners have been slow to take advantage of grant aid, and action under the appropriate sections of the Housing and Public Health Acts would be a contribution to the public health of the district. An overall policy would greatly facilitate the work of the department.

In preparation for the original five year programme for the years 1955/60, a classification of 2,208 houses was submitted to the Council by the health department. 163 of these houses were recommended for demolition, 919 for repair.

Following report of a sub-committee, the Council accepted 57 out of the 163 houses submitted, as suitable for demolition and 48 of these were submitted to the Minister for the five year programme, 9 having already been dealt with. Of these 57 houses, 17 have been demolished, 8 are subject to demolition orders not yet determined, 4 are subject to undertakings not to be used for habitation until made fit and 28 remain to be dealt with.

HOUSING - continued

60 wartime huts have been demolished and some of the families re-housed.

Of the 163 properties originally submitted to the Council as suitable for demolition, and excluding the 57 accepted:-

46 are known to have been repaired or re-conditioned out of the demolition class. 10 have been demolished. 7 undertakings have been accepted.

In October the Council asked for the compilation of a comprehensive list of properties to be prepared, by parish, in the categories of demolition and repair, not to be submitted until after "consultation" with the rural district councillor for the parish. It is to be hoped that this will not lead to a lack of uniformity of standards throughout the district.

HOUSING ACT, 1937, Part II.

Demolition Orders:- Five orders were made during the year.

Demolitions:- Five houses were demolished in pursuance of orders.

Statutory Notices:- Two were served. One was subsequently complied with after the end of the year.

Informal Action:- Five dwellings were rendered fit after informal action.

Housing Inspections:- 57 dwellings were inspected during the year for defects. 22 were found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation. 31 were found not to be in all respects fit for habitation.

Housing Applications:- The list stood at about 140 applicants in various categories. These included a small proportion living in demolition class dwellings, some subsequently re-housed in the village of Shroton and a few in casual vacancies. Some 40 of the applicants could be classed as urgent.

Overcrowding:-

- | | | | |
|-----|----|--|-----|
| (a) | 1. | Number of dwellings overcrowded at 31.12.59..... | 4 |
| | 2. | Number of families dwelling therein..... | 4 |
| | 3. | Number of persons involved..... | 32 |
| (b) | | Number of new cases reported..... | Nil |
| (c) | 1. | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved..... | Nil |
| | 2. | Number of persons involved..... | Nil |
| (d) | | Cases of renewed overcrowding after abatement..... | Nil |
| | | (Two families were re-housed in January, 1960) | |

Improvement Grants.

There was an increase in the number of grants made during the year, fifty-four houses benefitting from forty-seven applications. A great advantage of making grants is that houses are improved to well above the Housing Act standards without the Council having to take formal action.

From the time the Council commenced making grants 220 dwellings have been improved beyond the Housing Act standard as a result of 170 applications. It was anticipated that many other applications would be made following the introduction of standard grants but the 27 applications since June of last year represent only a small proportion of the properties which could benefit under the scheme. Many owners cannot afford to pay their half of the cost of improvements. This is understandable in an area where many cottages are let at unrealistically low rents.

Improvement Grants, 1959.

Applications received.....	20
Applications approved.....	20
Number of houses involved.....	27
Amount allocated.....	£6,570

Standard Grants.

Applications approved.....	27
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(An average of £135 per property=)

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES.

There is one caravan site in the district with more than one caravan thereon and eleven sites with only one caravan. The use of caravan sites is at present controlled by the Town and County Planning Acts, but the stationing of caravans on them for living accommodation is controlled by the Public Health Act, 1936.

The large site is licenced for twenty-seven residential caravans throughout the year, and four for holiday purposes during the season 1st April to 30th September. It is laid out on the lines recommended by the Council, with a hard surface road and hard standing for each caravan. Most of the vans have a waste water soakaway. There are two lavatories for each sex and one urinal. Provision is made for the hygienic disposal of the elsan closet contents from each van. The drainage of the sanitary accommodation is to a septic tank, biological filter and underground soakaways, and given reasonable attention the system creates no problems.

The site is well drained, laid out and maintained and is a credit to the owner. It is understood that bathrooms will be provided during the next twelve months.

The eleven single van sites, scattered throughout the district, are usually well out of sight and do not give rise to any anxiety. The staff visit these at various times during the year to try and ensure satisfactory standards are maintained, particularly with regard to water and sanitation.

Ninety-six visits were made to sites during the year.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Part of this Act became enforceable on the 31st December, 1956, giving Local Authorities new powers and duties for the prevention of air pollution, and including provisions relating to the installation of new furnaces, chimney heights, the making of building bye-laws, smoke control areas and other matters.

The remainder of the Act came into force in June, 1958, enabling the prohibition of dark smoke from chimneys, the abatement of smoke nuisances and other measures.

Section 3 of the main Act requires that any person proposing to install a furnace shall give notice of intention to do so to the Local Authority and failure to give notice is an offence.

Section 10 provides that when plans in connection with the installation of new furnaces are submitted, the Local Authority has to be satisfied that the heights of chimneys are such that no smoke nuisances will be likely to arise.

In order to prepare themselves to give advice on such matters your inspectors took advantage of an evening course of instruction at Bournemouth Technical College. The course lasted eighteen months and covered the syllabus of the Royal Society of Health's Smoke Inspectors examination.

The expenses in connection with this course were borne wholly by your inspectors, and with the background of knowledge acquired they were able to persuade the three largest boiler owners in the district to change from unsatisfactory solid fuel boilers to oil firing, with beneficial results.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 - continued.

Smoke is poisonous and it would be a pity if any tendency emerged to reverse the responsibility for polluting the atmosphere as between town and country by application of the Clean Air Act in the former and not in the latter, and I should like to commend your inspectors initiative in this connection.

NUISANCES

Complaints by nature:-

Cesspits and drainage.....	20
Smells.....	2
Housing.....	13
Flooding.....	2
Refuse.....	2
Manure.....	2
Keeping of animals.....	3
Infestations.....	3
Milk churns.....	1
Miscellaneous.....	1

One case involved the keeping of animals, to wit, pigs. There was a suggestion of a vendetta in this case, or persecution by pigs. One complainant only being involved, advice was sought as to whether Section 92 of the Public Health Act (Keeping of Animals) had been modified by case law in deciding what constituted a "Public Nuisance". Advice received at that time was to the effect that action could not be taken since one complainant did not constitute "The public" - (Minute 2788).

A sub-committee visited and decided that a nuisance was not being committed. These two decisions seemed to positively preclude further action, and the complainant eventually left. No more complaints have been received.

Arising from this case the Council made bye-laws on the keeping of animals which came into force on 1st July, 1959. The bye-laws are generally less useful than Section 92. They prohibit the keeping of pigs within 100 feet of a dwelling-house unless the place in which the swine are kept is in as clean a condition as is reasonably practicable, and within 50 feet in almost any circumstances. They also lay down requirements as to drainage of stabling and disposal of manure.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

Efforts to find a suitable tipping site continued but the greatest difficulty is experienced, local opinion invariably being roused at any proposal. This is undoubtedly due to the picture which nearly everyone has in his mind's eye of a tip, a shocking eyesore, perhaps a little smelly or pervaded by smoke. This legacy of the past, and unfortunately the present, will continue until the public understanding of refuse disposal becomes conditioned by the practice of controlled tipping, which is largely unobjectionable to the aesthetic senses and can be used very effectively for land reclamation. It is more expensive than random dumping, but this would often be offset by the large savings effected by abandonment of long hauls into remote country, which is at present a severe addition to the costs of refuse disposal.

The essence of controlled tipping is successive layers of refuse well covered with earth at frequent short intervals. Very little refuse is exposed. Simple earth moving machinery is a necessary capital outlay, while labour costs at the tip site are a factor to be considered. Informed public opinion would tolerate controlled tipping very much better than the present method, which utilises two tips, one at Winterborne Kingston in use throughout the year, the other at Farnham, which can be used during summer only.

Very few complaints are received regarding the collection of refuse, and complaints are very seldom made against the workmen, which is evidence of their cheerful willingness.

Salvage topped £300 for the first time despite low prices. An analysis is given:-

Cardboard.....	£4. 4. 6.
Waste paper.....	£214. 15. 6
Rags.....	19. 1. 6.
Woollens.....	9. 3. 1.
Iron Scrap.....	35. 0. 6.
Brass scrap.....	10. 1. 9
Copper scrap.....	6. 8. 2
Aluminium scrap.....	14. 6. 8
Batteries.....	1. 12. 9
	<u>£314. 14. 5</u>

RODENT CONTROL

Generally speaking the rat population has shown no change over the past twelve months. The wonderful summer did not bring about the expected increase. The rats came into their winter quarters much more gradually than in the past, and this seems to have continued right through the winter.

Infestations generally have been much smaller than in the past, but it appears that the same properties are troubled with them each time and re-infestations have been more frequent.

The work done by the private operator who took over the agricultural contracts when the Dorset Agricultural Executive Committee ceased has been excellent. He works very closely with the Council's Rodent Officer.

Special attention has had to be given to farms where control leaves much to be desired, but generally speaking, the control of rodents on farms has been very good, many of them having contracts with private operators.

	<u>Council</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Agricultural</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total number of visits made.....	86	1443	73	301	1903
Total number of premises:-					
Inspected on complaint.....	-	63	1	12	76
Inspected on survey.....	26	434	46	84	590
Total number of premises					
treated for rat infestation.....	8	185	3	22	218
treated for mouse infestation.....	-	21	1	2	24

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

An opportunity was taken early in the year to compare the Factories Register with the official records of H.M. Inspector of Factories, resulting in deletions and additions to both registers. This has resulted in a reduction in the number included in the Council's registers to thirty-eight, one only of which is classified as non-power.

Factories on the Register at the end of the year:-

(a) With mechanical power.....	37
(b) Without mechanical power.....	1
(c) Other premises coming within the Act.....	20
(d) Deletions from Register.....	4
Number of inspections made.....	58
Number of informal notices.....	4
Number of informal notices complied with.....	4
Outworkers on register.....	0

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year. No Statutory Notices were served.

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
DURING THE YEAR - 1959

Nuisances and Complaints.....	138
Housing Acts.....	738
Food Premises.....	257
Building Byelaws.....	309
Water Supplies.....	191
Water Samples.....	135
Drainage.....	432
Refuse and Salvage.....	168
Infectious Diseases.....	3
Factories and Workshops.....	54
Rats/Mice -(Rodent Officer visited.....1903-)1905	
Dangerous Buildings.....	-
Rights of Way.....	1
Rivers and Streams.....	38
Sewerage Schemes.....	331
Sewerage Samples.....	3
Petroleum.....	114
Infestations.....	13
Caravans.....	96
Miscellaneous.....	116
Planning.....	88
Food poisoning.....	6
Keeping of animals.....	16
Milk Samples.....	4
Clean Air Act.....	1
Swimming Baths.....	17

5174

Number of meetings attended.....107

